



WELCOME

HOWARD COUNTY TOURISM NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fear of Friday the 13th scares up business in Ellicott City Popular Olde Ellicott City Ghost Tour 2009 season opens February 13

Ellicott City, MD (January 21, 2009) – Howard County Tourism dares you to brave a frosty **February Friday the 13th** for *Ye Haunted History of Olde Ellicott City* Ghost Tours I & II. Each tour will include **thirteen (13)** teeth chattering stories of reported apparitions and poltergeists throughout the town. Stories were provided by very credible firefighters, shopkeepers, restaurateurs, residents, historians and even the chief curator of the B&O Railroad Museum: Ellicott City Station! Ghost guests will certainly enjoy learning the history of Ellicott City –the destination of the first **thirteen** miles of railroad, beginnings of the first federally funded highway, its entrepreneurial women and its place in history as the home of the longest operating grist mill -- all told with a paranormal twist! 2009 will see three Fridays dated the 13th: February, March and November!

FRIDAY THE 13th FAST FACTS

- § Over 20 MILLION Americans suffer from PARASKAVEDEKATRIAPHOBIA - the fear of Friday the 13th
- § It has been estimated that 750 MILLION DOLLARS will be LOST in business because people will not shop, travel or take risks of any kind on Friday the 13th
- § The U.S. NAVY to this day will NOT LAUNCH a ship on Friday the 13th
- § The very superstitious who suffer from PARASKAVEDEKATRIAPHOBIA will not dare get out of bed or leave their homes on Friday the 13th
- § Where does fear of Friday the 13th originate? Some suggest with the massacre of the Templar Knights on Friday the 13th or perhaps with Judas as the 13th guest on the last supper on Good Friday
- § Did you know the traditional day for a hanging in England was Friday, and the gallows were built with 13 steps; The pagan calendar had a total of 13 months and the number 13 is often referred to as the Devil's Dozen?
- § Legend says that if you throw a dinner party, never have a total of 13 people at the table. The first person to stand up at the end of the meal is said to be doomed and will die within a year. It is said that you can get around the curse by having everyone stand at the same time, but does anyone really want to tempt fate on that one?

WHAT'S NEW FOR THE 2009 GHOST TOUR SEASON

- § The "afterlife brings nightlife to Ellicott City" as popular *Ye Haunted History of Olde Ellicott City* Ghost Tours I & II welcomes thousands of ghost tour guests annually for an evening of shopping, dining and possible ghost sighting. Many

ghost tour survivors travel from the beyond, that is beyond Howard County zip codes!

- § Ghost tour website will include BIOs and spooky headshots of Tourism's Ghost Tour specialists (realtors, teachers, ex-police officers, artists by day)
- § Ghost guests are encouraged to e-mail their photos of apparitions, orbs and Ellicott City's ever present ectoplasmic mist to be posted on the website
- § Tourism's Ghost Tour specialists will blog and post updates on their MySpace pages about their tours and any new paranormal experiences, discuss posted ghost photos etc. Links available on www.visithowardcounty.com
- § Under development are YouTube style ghost hunting videos, online ticket sales and the long anticipated Ellicott City ghost book
- § "I'm with Ghost à " and "Join the Afterlife of the Party" black Tshirts for sale (reverse reads "I survived Ye Haunted History of Olde Ellicott Ghost Tours")

TOUR DETAILS

"Ye Haunted History of Olde Ellicott City" Ghost Tours (April – November)

Every Friday & Saturday Night 8:30P.M.

Howard County Visitor Information Center, 8267 Main Street, Side Entrance

\$10 Adults, \$8 Kids & Seniors & Active Military and their families

1-800-288-TRIP (8747), www.VisitHowardCounty.com , ghosts@visithowardcounty.com

The Crab Shanty in Ellicott City offers a discount to ghost tour survivors

Special Friday the 13th, Full Moon, and private tours available

TOUR STOPS

Each Ghost Tour specialist learns over 30 recent eye witness accounts of paranormal activity reported in historic Ellicott City –in addition to their own experiences. Ghost guests' tour may include the following stops:

The Wine Bin (formerly Ellicott City Fire station #2)

Bean Hollow

Gramps Attic Books

Diamondback Tavern (formerly Tiber River Tavern)

Jordan's Steakhouse

Forget-Me-Not Factory

The Good Life Market (Tongue Row location)

Ellicott Mills Brewing Co.

envy.salon

Tea on the Tiber

Wagon Wheel

The Phoenix Emporium

Odd Fellows Lodge

Wessel's Florist (formerly Su Casa's original location)

Vacant former location Al's Auto Body Repair Shop

Attic Antiques & Things

Judge's Bench

The Patapsco Hotel

Cacao Lane

B&O Railroad Museum: Ellicott City Station

Tiber Alley

Caplan's

Howard House Apartments

La Palapa Mexican Grill

Visitor Information Center (former Post Office, Casket Makers / Funeral home)